

11/15/00

JC685 U.S. PTO

C903 U.S. PTO
09/712171

11/15/00

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → ☐Approved for use through 09/30/2000. OMB 0651-0032
Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.**UTILITY
PATENT APPLICATION
TRANSMITTAL**

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No. 500.31108CC5

First Inventor or Application Identifier A. TANAKA et al.

Title See 1 in Addendum

Express Mail Label No.

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, DC 20231

1. ☒ * Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17)
(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. ☒ Specification [Total Pages 34]
(preferred arrangement set forth below)
 - Descriptive title of the Invention
 - Cross References to Related Applications
 - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
 - Reference to Microfiche Appendix
 - Background of the Invention
 - Brief Summary of the Invention
 - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
 - Detailed Description
 - Claim(s)
 - Abstract of the Disclosure
3. ☒ Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets 7]
4. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 2]
 - a. ☐ Newly executed (original or copy)
 - b. ☒ Copy from a prior application (37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 16 completed)
 - i. ☐ **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)**
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).

5. ☐ Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)
6. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission
(if applicable, all necessary)
 - a. ☐ Computer Readable Copy
 - b. ☐ Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)
 - c. ☐ Statement verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

7. ☐ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
8. ☐ 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b) Statement ☐ Power of Attorney
(when there is an assignee)
9. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
10. ☒ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 ☐ Copies of IDS Citations
11. ☒ Preliminary Amendment
12. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)
(Should be specifically itemized)
13. ☐ * Small Entity Statement(s) ☐ Statement filed in prior application
(PTO/SB/09-12) ☐ Status still proper and desired
14. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
(if foreign priority is claimed)
15. ☒ Other: Claim for Priority

* NOTE FOR ITEMS 1 & 13 IN ORDER TO BE ENTITLED TO PAY SMALL ENTITY FEES, A SMALL ENTITY STATEMENT IS REQUIRED (37 C.F.R. § 1.27), EXCEPT IF ONE FILED IN A PRIOR APPLICATION IS RELIED UPON (37 C.F.R. § 1.28).

16. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment:

☒ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP)

of prior application No: 09/162,444

Prior application information: Examiner H. Nguyen

Group / Art Unit: 2784

For CONTINUATION or DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

17. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS☒ Customer Number or Bar Code Label

020457

or ☐ Correspondence address below

(Insert Customer No. or Attach bar code label here)

Name					
Address					
City	State	Zip Code			
Country	Telephone	Fax			

Name (Print/Type)	Carl I. Brundidge	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	29,621
Signature	Paul I. Brundidge Reg No 32,173 for	Date	11/15/2000

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, DC 20231.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81																			

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**FEE TRANSMITTAL
for FY 2000**

Patent fees are subject to annual revision

Small Entity payments must be supported by a small entity statement, otherwise large entity fees must be paid. See Forms PTO/SB/09-12. See 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.27 and 1.28.**TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$)** 950.00**Complete if Known**

Application Number	Not Yet Assigned
Filing Date	Even Date Herewith
First Named Inventor	A. TANAKA et al.
Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Group / Art Unit	Not Yet Assigned
Attorney Docket No.	500.31108CC5

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check one)

- 1.
- ☐
- The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayments to:

Deposit
Account
Number

01-2135

Deposit
Account
Name

Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP

- ☒
- Charge Any Additional Fee Required
-
- Under 37 CFR §§ 1.16 and 1.17

- 2.
- ☒
- Payment Enclosed:

☐ Check ☐ Money Order ☒ Other**FEE CALCULATION****1. BASIC FILING FEE**

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
101 690	201 345	Utility filing fee	710.00
106 310	206 155	Design filing fee	
107 480	207 240	Plant filing fee	
108 690	208 345	Reissue filing fee	
114 150	214 75	Provisional filing fee	

SUBTOTAL (1) (\$) 710.00**2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES**

Total Claims	Extra Claims	Fee from below	Fee Paid
12	-20** = 0	X 18	= 0
Independent Claims	6	-3** = 3	X 80 = 240
Multiple Dependent			= 0

**or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see below

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description
103 18	203 9	Claims in excess of 20
102 78	202 39	Independent claims in excess of 3
104 260	204 130	Multiple dependent claim, if not paid
109 78	209 39	** Reissue independent claims over original patent
110 18	210 9	** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent

SUBTOTAL (2) (\$) 240.00**FEE CALCULATION (continued)****3. ADDITIONAL FEES**

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
105 130	205 65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	0.00
127 50	227 25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	0.00
139 130	139 130	Non-English specification	0.00
147 2,520	147 2,520	For filing a request for reexamination	0.00
112 920*	112 920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	0.00
113 1,840*	113 1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	0.00
115 110	215 55	Extension for reply within first month	0.00
116 380	216 190	Extension for reply within second month	0.00
117 870	217 435	Extension for reply within third month	0.00
118 1,360	218 680	Extension for reply within fourth month	0.00
128 1,850	228 925	Extension for reply within fifth month	0.00
119 300	219 150	Notice of Appeal	0.00
120 300	220 150	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	0.00
121 260	221 130	Request for oral hearing	0.00
138 1,510	138 1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	0.00
140 110	240 55	Petition to revive - unavoidable	0.00
141 1,210	241 605	Petition to revive - unintentional	0.00
142 1,210	242 605	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	0.00
143 430	243 215	Design issue fee	0.00
144 580	244 290	Plant issue fee	0.00
122 130	122 130	Petitions to the Commissioner	0.00
123 50	123 50	Petitions related to provisional applications	0.00
126 240	126 240	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	0.00
581 40	581 40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	0.00
146 690	246 345	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a))	0.00
149 690	249 345	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))	0.00
Other fee (specify) _____			0.00
Other fee (specify) _____			0.00

* Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3) (\$) 0.00**SUBMITTED BY**

Name (Print/Type)	Carl I. Brundidge	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	29,621	Telephone	703-612-6600
Signature	[Signature]			Date	11/15/2000

WARNING:

Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: A. TANAKA et al.
Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned
Continuation of Application Serial No.
09/162,444
Filed: Even Date Herewith
For: DATA RECONSTRUCTION METHOD AND SYSTEM
EMPLOYING THE SAME
Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned
Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

November 15, 2000

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified
application submitted herewith as follows.

IN THE TITLE

Please change the title to --DATA RECONSTRUCTION METHOD
AND SYSTEM WHEREIN TIMING OF DATA RECONSTRUCTION IS CONTROLLED
IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONDITIONS WHEN A FAILURE OCCURS--.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, line 2, after "is" insert --a continuation of
application Serial No. 09/162,444 filed on September
29, 1998, which is--;

between lines 8 and 9, insert the following new paragraph:

--This application is related to application Serial No. 08/895,986 filed on September 29, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,000,039, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 08/534,841, the great-grandparent application of the present application.--.

Page 21, line 11, delete "kind" insert --kinds--.

REMARKS

A new title has been provided, and the specification has been amended. Claims 1-12 are pending, with claims 1, 4-7, and 11 being independent.

Submitted herewith is a claim for priority, acknowledgement of which is respectfully requested.

Submitted herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement, consideration of which is respectfully requested.

The abstract is based on claims 1-3.

The original specification of the present application (except for the title of the invention) is identical to the substitute specification filed on March 24, 2000, in application Serial No. 09/162,444, the parent application of the present application, as amended by the amendment of March 24, 2000, filed in the parent application and the supplemental amendment of April 7, 2000, filed in the parent application.

The original drawings of the present application are identical to the corrected drawings filed on September 21, 2000, in the parent application.

The feature of independent claims 1 and 4-6 wherein the controller is operable in a first mode wherein the processing of reconstructing data has priority over the processing of data read/write requests, and a second mode wherein the processing of data read/write requests has priority over the processing of reconstructing data is shown, for example, in Fig. 6 wherein Step 136 corresponds to the first mode recited in claims 1 and 4-6, and Step 134 corresponds to the second mode recited in claims 1 and 4-6.

The feature of claim 2 depending from claim 1 wherein the controller determines whether to operate in the first mode or the second mode based on an urgency of data reconstruction is described, for example, on page 8, line 25, through page 9, line 13, of the specification.

The feature of claim 3 depending from claim 1 wherein the controller determines whether to operate in the first mode or the second mode in order to complete data reconstruction within a fixed time is described, for example, on page 4, lines 2-8; page 6, lines 18-26; and page 19, line 26, through page 20, line 4, of the specification wherein the fixed time recited in claim 3 corresponds, for example, to the fixed period of time referred to on page 4, lines 5-6; page 6, line 26; and page 20, line 3, of the specification.

mode based on a time for reconstructing data which is determined before the processing of reconstructing data begins is shown, for example, in Fig. 6 and described, for example, on page 4, lines 2-8; page 6, lines 18-26; and page 18, line 24, through page 20, line 4, of the specification wherein the time for reconstructing data which is determined before the processing of reconstructing data begins recited in claim 6 corresponds, for example, to one or more of the predetermined limit time in Step 132 in Fig. 6 and the fixed period of time referred to on page 4, lines 5-6; page 6, line 26; and page 20, line 3, of the specification.

The feature of independent claim 7 wherein the controller performs the processing of reconstructing data and the processing of data read/write requests based on a condition determined before the processing of reconstructing data begins is shown, for example, in Fig. 6 and described, for example, on page 4, lines 2-8; page 6, lines 18-26; and page 18, line 24, through page 20, line 4, of the specification wherein the processing of reconstructing data recited in claim 7 is performed, for example, in Steps 134 and 136 in Fig. 6; wherein the processing of data read/write requests recited in claim 7 is performed, for example, in Step 134 in Fig. 6; and wherein the condition determined before the processing of reconstructing data begins recited in claim 7 determines which one of Steps 134 and 136 is performed and corresponds, for example, to one or more of the threshold in Step 130 in Fig. 6, the predetermined limit time in Step 132 in Fig. 6, and the

fixed period of time referred to on page 4, lines 5-6; page 6, line 26; and page 20, line 3, of the specification.

The feature of claim 8 depending from claim 7 wherein the condition is a time for reconstructing data is shown, for example, in Fig. 6 and described, for example, on page 4, lines 2-8; page 6, lines 18-26; and page 18, line 24, through page 20, line 4, of the specification wherein the time for reconstructing data recited in claim 8 corresponds, for example, to one or more of the predetermined limit time in Step 132 in Fig. 6 and the fixed period of time referred to on page 4, lines 5-6; page 6, line 26; and page 20, line 3, of the specification.

The feature of claim 9 depending from claim 7 wherein the condition determines a priority of the processing of reconstructing data and a priority of the processing of data read/write requests is shown, for example, in Fig. 6 wherein the processing of reconstructing data recited in claim 9 and the processing of data read/write requests recited in claim 9 are performed with different priorities in Steps 134 and 136, and which one of Steps 134 and 136 is performed is determined by the condition determined before the processing of reconstructing data begins recited in claim 7 from which claim 9 depends and which corresponds, for example, to one or more of the threshold in Step 130 in Fig. 6, the predetermined limit time in Step 132 in Fig. 6, and the fixed period of time referred to on page 4, lines 5-6; page 6, line 26; and page 20, line 3, of the specification.

The feature of claim 10 depending from claim 9 wherein the condition is a time for reconstructing data is shown, for example, in Fig. 6 and described, for example, on page 4, lines 2-8; page 6, lines 18-26; and page 18, line 24, through page 20, line 4, of the specification wherein the time for reconstructing data recited in claim 10 corresponds, for example, to one or more of the predetermined limit time in Step 132 in Fig. 6 and the fixed period of time referred to on page 4, lines 5-6; page 6, line 26; and page 20, line 3, of the specification.

The feature of independent claim 11 wherein the controller determines a priority of the processing of reconstructing data and a priority of the processing of data read/write requests based on a condition determined before the processing of reconstructing data begins is shown, for example, in Fig. 6 and described, for example, on page 4, lines 2-8; page 6, lines 18-26; and page 18, line 24, through page 20, line 4, of the specification wherein the processing of reconstructing data recited in claim 11 and the processing of data read/write requests recited in claim 11 are performed with different priorities in Steps 134 and 136 in Fig. 6, and which one of Steps 134 and 136 is performed is determined by the condition determined before the processing of reconstructing data begins recited in claim 11 which corresponds, for example, to one or more of the threshold in Step 130 in Fig. 6, the predetermined limit time in Step 132 in Fig. 6, and the fixed period of time referred to on page 4,

lines 5-6; page 6, line 26; and page 20, line 3, of the specification.

The feature of claim 12 depending from claim 11 wherein the condition is a time for reconstructing data is shown, for example, in Fig. 6 and described, for example, on page 4, lines 2-8; page 6, lines 18-26; and page 18, line 24, through page 20, line 4, of the specification wherein the time for reconstructing data recited in claim 12 corresponds, for example, to one or more of the predetermined limit time in Step 132 in Fig. 6 and the fixed period of time referred to on page 4, lines 5-6; page 6, line 26; and page 20, line 3, of the specification.

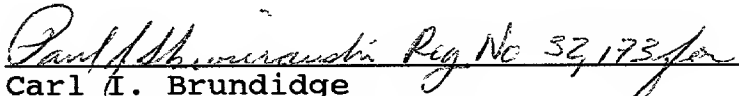
Although various features of claims 1-12 have been discussed above with reference to specific portions of the specification and drawings, it is noted that these specific references to the specification and drawings are strictly exemplary, and that other portions of the specification and drawings also provide support for the features of claims 1-12 discussed above.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, or credit any overpayment of fees,

to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus,
LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (500.31108CC5).

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP


Carl I. Brundidge
Registration No. 29,621

CIB/RSS
(703) 312-6600

DATA RECONSTRUCTION METHOD AND SYSTEM EMPLOYING THE SAME

1. The method of data reconstruction according to claim 1, wherein the data is reconstructed by using the data reconstruction method.

CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of application Serial No. 08/895,886 filed on July 17, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 5,941,993, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 08/534,841 filed on September 27, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 5,889,938, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 07/859,850, filed on March 30, 1992, now U.S. Patent No. 5,495,572.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a memory for performing access or read/write in parallel with a plurality of independent storage units as a set, and more particularly to a data reconstruction system and a method used therein which are available in occurrence of a failure.

The technology for controlling discs arranged in parallel is disclosed in Japanese Kokai 1-250128 corresponding to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 07/118,785 filed on November 6, 1987, now U.S. Patent No. 4,870,643, and Japanese Kokai 2-135555.

As for the technology for achieving the large capacity of a memory and the high speed transfer of data, there is known a method in which the data is divided into a plurality of data of bit units, byte units or arbitrary units, with a plurality of storage units as a set, to be stored in the respective storage units, and when the data

is to be read out, the plurality of data is simultaneously read out from the respective storage units. Moreover, in this method, the data to be used for a parity check is produced from the data divided among the storage units to be stored in another storage unit. When the failure occurs in any of the storage units, the data stored in the remaining normal storage units and the data for the parity check are used to reconstruct the faulty data, thereby to improve the reliability of the memory.

Further, there is known the technology in which when the failure occurs in any of the storage units, not only the data is reconstructed for the normal read operation, but also the data stored in the storage unit at fault is reconstructed to be stored in the normal storage unit which is additionally provided. With this technology, the reconstructed data is stored in the spare storage unit and the data is read out from the spare storage unit for the subsequent access, whereby it is possible to improve the availability of the memory.

The failure of a certain number of storage units can be repaired by providing the parity data, and the data can also be reconstructed by the provision of the spare storage unit. However, for the operation of repairing the failure, it is necessary to read out all of the data stored in the normal storage units and the data for the parity check, reconstruct the faulty data and write the

reconstructed data to the spare storage unit. Therefore, during the repair of the failure, the storage units are occupied so that the request to process the normal access or read/write which is issued from a host unit continues to wait. This results in the degradation of the performance of the memory. As for the error check method for reconstructing the faulty data, there are known the parity data, Reed-Solomon code and error check code (ECC) methods.

Although the redundancy is provided for the failure of a plurality of storage units, the failure repair in the failure of one storage unit and that in the failure of a plurality of storage units are managed without taking the distinction therebetween into consideration. Therefore, putting emphasis on the repair of the failure, since the processing of the normal access or read/write cannot be performed in spite of the failure of one storage unit, there arises a problem in that the efficiency of the processing of the normal access or read/write is reduced. On the other hand, putting emphasis on the normal access or read/write operation, there arises a problem in that the time required for the repair of the failure is not secure during the failure of a plurality of storage units, and as a result, the possibility that the whole system may break down will be increased.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is therefore an object of the present invention to minimize the reduction of the processing of the normal access or read/write in the failure, limit the time
5 required for the repair of the failure within a fixed period of time, and ensure the high reliability, with respect to a memory which has the redundancy for the failure of two or more storage units.

It is another object of the present invention to
10 provide a data reconstruction system which is capable of selecting a suitable data reconstruction method in correspondence to the various kinds of conditions relating to the repair of the failure and carrying out the most suitable data reconstruction processing.

It is still another object of the present invention
15 to provide a control system which is capable of changing the procedure of data reconstruction processing in correspondence to the change of redundancy relating to the number of ECC discs included in a plurality of
20 storage units which are arranged in parallel to one another.

The above objects of the present invention are
attained by the provision of a memory including a group
of storage units for dividing data into a plurality of
25 data of bit units, byte units or arbitrary units to store therein the divided data, the plurality of independent storage units forming a set; discs for storing therein

ECC data corresponding to the divided data; a spare storage unit for storing therein the reconstructed data; an I/O-reconstruction control circuit for receiving a command relating to an I/O operation issued from a host unit to execute processing in accordance with the command or respond to the host unit; a timer for giving the point of failure, an elapsed time during the data reconstruction, a unit time and the like; a data reconstructing table for the storage unit at fault; and a faulty data reconstructing circuit for performing discovery of the faulty data, data reconstruction and an operation of writing data to a spare storage disc, wherein when a failure occurs in any of the storage units, the faulty data reconstructing circuit detects the failure by an error check to inform the I/O-reconstruction control circuit of the failure, and the I/O-reconstruction control circuit discriminates a state of the failure to select the preferred processing suitable for the state of the failure out of the processing of the normal access or read/write and the data reconstruction processing, thereby to execute the selected processing, or set the frequency of the processing of the normal access or read/write and the data reconstruction, or the amount of the data reconstruction within a unit time.

When the failure occurs in the above memory, the redundancy of the memory, the elapsed time during the

data reconstruction, and the state of the normal access or read/write processing and the like are discriminated, and the data reconstruction processing (method) suitable therefor is selected. Therefore, it is possible to

5 prevent reduction of the performance of the processing of the normal access or read/write and ensure the high

reliability of the memory. More specifically, in the case where the number of storage units at fault is less than the redundancy of the memory, there is selected the

10 data reconstruction processing (method) in which the processing of the normal access or read/write is given preference, and the faulty data is reconstructed within the remaining period of time. Therefore, no load is put on the processing of the normal access or read/write. On

15 the other hand, in the case where there is no remaining redundancy, since the processing of reconstructing faulty data is given preference, it is possible to ensure the reliability for the failure of the memory. Moreover, in

the case where there is some remaining redundancy, since

20 the data reconstruction processing (method) is changed according to the magnitude of the time taken to repair the failure with respect to the storage units in which the failure occurred, it is possible to prevent reduction

of the performance of the processing of the normal access or read/write and limit the time required for the data

25 reconstruction within a fixed period of time. Moreover, a time zone, e.g., night, having less processing of the

normal access or read/write is selected so that the system can devote itself to the data reconstruction. As a result, it is possible to reduce the load of the memory in a time zone having much processing of the normal access or read/write. Moreover, since the frequency of the data reconstruction processing, or the amount of data reconstruction within a unit time, is set according to the magnitude of the frequency of the processing of the normal access or read/write, it is possible to carry out the data reconstruction processing effectively in a time aspect.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a flow chart of the processing of reconstructing faulty data according to the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a block diagram showing the arrangement of a memory according to the present invention;

Fig. 3 is a diagram showing the arrangement of a data reconstructing table for a disc at fault of the present invention;

Fig. 4 is a flow chart showing the processing employed in the memory of Fig. 2;

Fig. 5 is a flow chart of a block of selecting the data reconstruction processing in Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is another flow chart of a block of selecting the data reconstruction processing in Fig. 4;

Fig. 7 is still another flow chart of a block of selecting the data reconstruction processing in Fig. 4;

Fig. 8 is yet another flow chart of a block of selecting the data reconstruction processing in Fig. 4;
5 and

Fig. 9 is a further flow chart of a block of selecting the data reconstruction processing in Fig. 4.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The description will hereinafter be given to a flow
10 chart showing the processing of reconstructing faulty data of Fig. 1.

It is assumed that a failure occurs in a memory or a motor (Step 10). In this connection, this failure is detected by the check of an error check code or by the
15 check of the deviation of a motor driving voltage from a predetermined range. First, it is judged whether or not the failure thus occurred is repairable (Step 20). If not, then the data reconstruction processing is completed. This results in data loss (Step 30). If so,
20 it is judged on the basis of the redundancy of the memory, the elapsed time of the data reconstruction and the processing state of the processing of the normal access or read/write whether or not it is a state in which the system should devote itself to the data
25 reconstruction (Step 40). If a request to process the normal processing such as access or read/write is issued

from a host unit under the condition in which there is a sufficient remaining redundancy and the urgency of the reconstruction is low, the data reconstruction processing is stopped and the normal processing such as access or read/write is given preference. Then, the data reconstruction processing is performed within the remaining period of time, and the processing of access or read/write during the data reconstruction is cancelled or queued (Step 50). Conversely, if there is no remaining redundancy and the urgency of the reconstruction is high, the data reconstruction processing is given preference, and all of the normal processing such as access or read/write is cancelled or queued (Step 60). Moreover, in the case of the intermediate state in which there are some combinations between the urgency of the data reconstruction and the significance of the normal processing such as access or read/write, the data reconstruction processing corresponding to the individual conditions is previously prepared in the form of programs. Then, when the conditions are changed, a suitable processing can be performed by replacing an old program with a new one (Step 70). Next, when the data reconstruction processing is completed or interrupted, it is checked whether or not the data reconstruction processing still remains (Step 80). After all of the data reconstruction processing has been completed, the memory returns to the normal state (Step 90). If the

data reconstruction processing still remains, the flow returns to Step 20 and the above steps will be repeated until the data reconstruction is completed.

Next, a block diagram showing the arrangement of an embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to Fig. 2.

In Fig. 2, the reference numeral 150 designates an I/O-reconstruction control circuit which receives a command relating to an I/O operation issued from the host unit to carry out the processing according to the command or respond to the host unit. Further, when a failure has occurred in any of the storage units, the circuit 150 serves to select a suitable data reconstruction method on the basis of the number of discs during the reconstruction, the time taken to reconstruct the faulty data, the frequency of the data reconstruction, or the amount of the data reconstruction within a unit time, and the like. There is connected to the individual storage units a monitor 155 which monitors whether after the power source for driving the storage units is activated, the driving voltage is in a predetermined range, and feeds a pseudo-instruction for reading out data previously stored in a predetermined location to the storage units which are entering the running state and monitors the responses sent therefrom. The reference numeral 154 designates a data reconstructing table for the storage unit at fault of which details will be

described below with respect to Fig. 3. The reference numeral 152 designates a clock or timer for obtaining the point of failure by giving the time of day and obtaining the elapsed time during the reconstruction and the unit
5 time by a certain method. Then, the data reconstruction method can be changed based on the time measured by the timer as one condition. The reference numeral 156 designates a circuit for reconstructing faulty data which performs the discovery of the faulty data, the data
10 reconstruction and the writing of the data to a spare storage disc. Moreover, the circuit 156 reads out the data from all of the discs except the disc at fault, reconstructs the faulty data using the data thus read out, and transfers the reconstructed data to the host
15 unit and writes it to the spare storage disc. The reference numerals 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, and 168 designate a group of data discs for storing therein the divided data. Although six data discs are shown in Fig. 2, the number thereof is generally arbitrary. The
20 reference numerals 170 and 172 designate discs which store therein ECC data corresponding to the divided data which is stored in the six data discs 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, and 168. When the failure occurs, the faulty data is reconstructed using the ECC data and the normal data
25 among the divided data stored in the six data discs 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, and 168. In this connection, the redundancy of the memory corresponds to the number of ECC

discs with respect to the number of discs up to a certain number. But, in the case where more than a certain number of the discs break down, it is impossible to reconstruct the faulty data. This results in data loss.

5 Fig. 2 shows that when the number of ECC discs is two, when two data discs break down, the faulty data can be reconstructed. However, since there is generally known an ECC production method which can compensate for the failure of two or more discs, the number of faulty discs
10 which does not result in data loss, i.e., the redundancy, can be increased. The ECC production is concretely realized using the Reed-Solomon code. The Reed-Solomon code and the error correction method employing the same themselves are well known. The reference numerals 174
15 and 176 designate spare storage discs for storing therein the reconstructed data. Then, in the case where the storage contents of the faulty disc are stored in a spare storage disc, that spare storage disc is accessed with the data stored therein after the next time. The number
20 of spare storage discs is generally arbitrary.

The data reconstructing table for the disc at fault will now be described with reference to Fig. 3.

The data reconstructing table 154 includes the identification number of the spare storage disc (1), the
25 identification number of the disc at fault (2), the point of failure (3), the sector or address of the failure (4),

and the flag used to judge whether or not the failure is repairable (5).

Next, the operations of the memory of Fig. 2 and the table of Fig. 3 will be described on the basis of a flow chart shown in Fig. 4.

First, in Fig. 2, it is assumed that the failure occurs in the data disc 162 (Step 100). Then, the circuit 156 for reconstructing faulty data detects that failure and informs the I/O-reconstruction control circuit 150 of that failure. After receiving that information from the circuit 156, the circuit 150 checks whether or not an unoccupied space is present in the data reconstructing table 154 by referring to the table 154 (Step 102). Subsequently, the circuit 150 checks whether or not that failure is a failure which occurred in a new disc (Step 104). If so, the circuit 150 instructs the circuit 156 to write the following initial values in the columns of interest in the data reconstructing table 154 of Fig. 3. That is, the circuit 156 writes the identification number SPARE 1 of the spare disc 174 in the column of the spare storage unit in the data reconstructing table 154, and writes the identification number #2 of the data disc 162 at fault in the column of the storage unit at fault. Next, the circuit 156 writes the point of failure read out from the timer 152 in the column of the point of failure, and writes the failure occurrence address in the faulty disc 162 in the column

of the sector or address of the failure. Finally, the circuit 156 initializes the reconstruction judgement flag of each address (Step 106). If that failure is not a new one, the processing of Step 106 is not executed, but the processing proceeds to the subsequent step. In the subsequent step, the circuit 150 discriminates the state of the failure, selects either the processing of the normal access or read/write, or the data reconstruction processing which is suitable for the state of the failure, and executes the selected processing (Step 108). The details of this Step 108 will be described below with reference to Fig. 5 to Fig. 9. Next, when the data reconstruction processing is completed or interrupted, it is checked whether or not the data reconstruction processing still remains (Step 110). When all of the data reconstruction processing is completed, the memory returns to the normal state (Step 112). When the data reconstruction processing still remains, the processing returns to Step 102, and the above steps are repeated until all of the data reconstruction processing is completed. When any data reconstruction method is chosen, the circuit 156 monitors the continuation or completion of the data reconstruction processing. In the case where a subsequent failure occurs when the data reconstruction of interest has not yet been completed, the circuit 156 starts performing the processing in the same manner as described above (Step 102). Then, in the

case where the number of faulty discs for which data reconstruction is not completed exceeds the redundancy of the memory, since the data reconstruction is impossible, the circuit 150 informs the host unit of a data loss (Step 114). If the data reconstruction processing is completed, the unnecessary data in the data reconstructing table 154 is erased and the memory returns to the normal state (Step 112). The address in the table 154 may be in track units, sector units, word units, or any other units.

Next, Step 108 of Fig. 4 will be described with reference to Fig. 5.

In Fig. 5, the I/O-reconstruction control circuit 150 counts the number of discs for which data reconstruction has not been completed by referring to the data reconstructing table 154, and compares the number of faulty discs with a threshold (Step 120). If the number of faulty discs is less than or equal to the threshold which is previously set to a value less than or equal to the redundancy, the circuit 150 judges that there is some remaining redundancy, gives the processing of access or read/write preference, and performs the processing of reconstructing faulty data within the remaining period of time. All of the processing such as access or read/write during the reconstruction waits, i.e., it is cancelled or queued (Step 122). On the other hand, if the number of faulty discs is more than the threshold, the circuit 150

judges that there is no remaining redundancy, gives the data reconstruction processing preference, and cancels or queues all of the normal processing such as access or read/write (Step 124).

5 The reconstruction is performed on the basis of a unit, such as 1 track, in which the repair and the storage are completed in a relatively short period of time. After the completion of the reconstruction, the memory is opened for the normal processing. But, when

10 the instruction of the processing of access or read/write is issued from the host unit during the reconstruction, the data reconstruction work is stopped immediately, and then the memory is opened for the processing of access or read/write. In the case where during the processing of

15 access or read/write, data which has not yet been reconstructed is read out, the faulty data is then reconstructed using the ECC data and the normal data which was used when producing the ECC data, and the reconstructed data is sent to the host unit. At the same

20 time, the reconstructed data is stored in the spare disc and the reconstruction judgement flag of the address column of interest in the data reconstructing table 154 is set to indicate completion of the reconstruction. If this flag is set to indicate completion of the

25 reconstruction, the subsequent access to this data is performed with the spare disc. In the case of writing data, after the ECC data has been produced, the data

which would normally be stored in the faulty disc is stored in the spare disc, and then the reconstruction judgement flag is set to indicate completion of the reconstruction.

5 Since in the example of Fig. 2, the redundancy is two, it is proper that the threshold is necessarily set to 1. However, in the case where the Reed-Solomon code capable of correcting errors in two or more discs is used, the threshold may be an arbitrary integer number
10 less than or equal to the redundancy. Those values are previously set in the table 157.

 Since the I/O-reconstruction control circuit 150 stores the address of the last data which was reconstructed, the data reconstruction is continued from
15 the subsequent address. In the reconstruction, the address of the last data which was reconstructed and previously stored is used. Then, when the flag is not set in the data reconstructing table 154, thus indicating that the data reconstruction is not completed with
20 respect to the subsequent address, the data at that address is reconstructed. The reconstruction of the data is performed in such a way that the ECC data and the normal data which was used to produce the ECC data from the normal discs are read out and the circuit 156 for
25 reconstructing faulty data is used. The reconstructed data is written in the spare disc and the flag in the data reconstructing table 154 is set to indicate

completion of the data reconstruction. Then, the reconstructed data in the spare disc can be accessed. The address of the reconstructed data is stored in the circuit 156, and the processing by the circuit 150 proceeds to the subsequent data reconstruction processing.

In the embodiment of Fig. 5, when the number of faulty discs is less than or equal to the threshold, the processing of the normal access or read/write takes precedence over the data reconstruction. Therefore, it is possible to reduce degradation of the performance of access or read/write of the memory. Moreover, since in a state in which the system devotes itself to the data reconstruction, the reconstruction can be performed in a short period of time, it is possible to maintain the reliability of the memory.

In the above embodiments, the data reconstruction method is selected by paying attention to only the number of faulty discs. However, the elapsed time taken to reconstruct the faulty data can, in addition to the number of faulty discs, be included in the conditions.

Next, another example of Step 108 of Fig. 4 will be described with reference to Fig. 6.

In Fig. 6, the I/O-reconstruction control circuit 150 counts the number of discs for which reconstruction is not yet completed by referring to the data reconstructing table 154, and compares the number of

faulty discs with a threshold (Step 130). If that number is less than or equal to the threshold, then the circuit 150 reads the present time from the timer 152, and compares the time taken to reconstruct the faulty data, which can be calculated from the present time and the point of failure in the data reconstructing table 154, with a predetermined limit time (Step 132). Then, if the reconstruction time is less than the predetermined limit time, it is considered that the data reconstruction can be deferred. Therefore, the circuit 150 instructs the circuit 156 for reconstructing faulty data to give the processing of the normal access or read/write preference, reconstruct the data in the faulty discs within the remaining period of time, and store the reconstructed data in the spare disc. The request to perform the processing of access or read/write issued from the host unit during the reconstruction is cancelled or queued (Step 134). If the number of faulty discs is more than the threshold, or the reconstruction time is more than the predetermined limit time, it is considered that the data reconstruction cannot be deferred. Therefore, the circuit 150 cancels or queues the command of the normal access or read/write issued from the host unit and instructs the circuit 156 to give the data reconstruction preference (Step 136).

In the embodiment of Fig. 6, when the time taken to reconstruct the faulty data exceeds the limit time, the

system devotes itself to the processing of reconstructing faulty data. Therefore, it is possible to limit the reconstruction time within a fixed period of time and improve the reliability of the memory.

5 Next, another example of Step 108 of Fig. 4 will be described with reference to Fig. 7.

10 In Fig. 7, the I/O-reconstruction control circuit 150 obtains the present time from the timer 152 and judges whether or not that time is in a time zone having much processing of the normal access or read/write (Step 140). If not, the circuit 150 cancels or queues the command of the normal access or read/write issued from the host unit, and instructs the circuit 156 for reconstructing faulty data to give the data
15 reconstruction preference. Moreover, even if that time is in a time zone having much processing of the normal access or read/write, when the number of faulty discs of Step 142 exceeds the threshold, similarly, the data reconstruction processing is given preference (Step 146).
20 Only when that time is in a time zone having much processing of the normal access or read/write and the number of faulty discs is less than or equal to the threshold, is the processing of the normal access or read/write given preference and the data reconstruction
25 performed within the remaining period of time (Step 144).

 In the embodiment of Fig. 7, when it is previously known that the method of using the memory depends on the

time zone, the data reconstruction processing can be assigned to the time zone having less processing of access or read/write. Therefore, the data reconstruction processing can be smoothly carried out without the processing of access or read/write hindering the data reconstruction processing.

In the above-mentioned examples of Fig. 5 to Fig. 7, there are provided two kinds of data reconstruction processing in which the reconstruction or the processing of access or read/write is given preference. However, the kind of data reconstruction processing may be increased in correspondence to the circumstances.

Next, another example of Step 108 of Fig. 4 will be described with reference to Fig. 8.

In Fig. 8, when the number of faulty discs exceeds the threshold in Step 180, the data reconstruction processing is given preference and the processing of the normal access or read/write is stopped (Step 188). When the number of faulty discs is less than or equal to the threshold, and the time is not in the time zone having much processing of the normal access or read/write in Step 182, only the read processing is performed and the data reconstruction processing is given preference for the remaining period of time (Step 186). When the number of faulty discs is less than or equal to the threshold and the time is in the time zone having much processing of the normal access or read/write, the processing of the

normal access or read/write is given preference and the data reconstruction processing is performed within the remaining period of time (Step 184).

In the embodiment of Fig. 8, when the number of faulty discs is less than or equal to the threshold, but the time is in the time zone having less processing of the normal access or read/write, especially, the time zone having only the read processing, the read processing is preferentially allowed to be performed, whereby it is possible to reduce degradation of the performance of the memory without hindering the data reconstruction processing.

Next, another example of Step 108 of Fig. 4 will be described with reference to Fig. 9.

In Fig. 9, when the number of faulty discs exceeds the threshold in Step 190, or the number of faulty discs is less than or equal to the threshold in Step 190 and the time taken to reconstruct the faulty data exceeds the limit time in Step 192, the data reconstruction processing is given preference and the processing of the normal access or read/write is stopped (Step 202). When the number of faulty discs is less than or equal to the threshold and the time taken to reconstruct the faulty data is less than the limit time, the I/O-reconstruction control circuit 150 reads a unit time from the timer 152, and compares the frequency of the processing of the normal access or read/write within that unit time with a

predetermined threshold (Step 194). When the frequency of the processing of the normal access or read/write is more than the threshold, it is considered that the data reconstruction can be deferred. Therefore, the

5 processing of the normal access or read/write is given preference and the data reconstruction processing is performed within the remaining period of time (Step 196).

On the other hand, when the frequency of the processing of the normal access or read/write is less than the

10 threshold, the frequency thereof may have any magnitude near or far from the threshold, and thus the frequency changes in magnitude. Therefore, the frequency of the data reconstruction processing or the amount of the data reconstruction within the unit time is dynamically set

15 according to the magnitude of the frequency of the processing of the normal access or read/write (Step 198).

Then, the data reconstruction processing is carried out according to the frequency of the data reconstruction processing or the amount of the data reconstruction

20 within the unit time thus set (Step 200).

In the embodiment of Fig. 9, the frequency of the data reconstruction processing or the amount of the data reconstruction within the unit time is set according to the magnitude of the frequency of the processing of the
25 normal access or read/write. Therefore, the data reconstruction processing can be carried out effectively in a time aspect.

Although a magnetic disc is used as the storage unit in the above-mentioned embodiments, the present invention is not limited thereto or thereby. That is, alternatively, an optical disc, a floppy disc, or a semiconductor memory may be used as the storage unit.

Moreover, as the conditions for selecting the data reconstruction method, instead of the above embodiments, the job contents of the host unit, the significance of the file in the memory, and the like may be used as the conditions. The combination of those conditions and the data reconstruction method allows the flexible data reconstruction processing to be performed.

According to the above embodiments, when the number of storage units at fault is less than the redundancy of the memory, the processing of access or read/write takes precedence over the data reconstruction processing. Therefore, the load of the memory is not increased so that it is possible to reduce degradation of the response performance of the memory in the processing of access or read/write to the utmost. Moreover, since when the remaining redundancy becomes small, the processing of access or read/write is automatically stopped and the data reconstruction processing is given preference, the reliability of the memory is not reduced. Further, since the data reconstruction processing method is changed according to the time taken to reconstruct the faulty data of the storage units at fault, it is possible to

realize a memory of higher reliability. Moreover, since the frequency of the data reconstruction processing or the amount of the data reconstruction within the unit time is set according to the magnitude of the frequency of the processing of access or read/write, it is possible to carry out the data reconstruction processing effectively in a time aspect.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data storage system connectable to a host unit which issues data read/write requests to the data storage system, the data storage system comprising:

a plurality of disc units; and

a controller connected to the disc units;

wherein a fault can occur in any of the disc units;

wherein the disc units store data in a plurality of data groups and error correcting data corresponding to each of the data groups;

wherein the controller performs processing of reconstructing data stored in any of the disc units in which a fault has occurred based on all other data belonging to any of the data groups to which the data to be reconstructed belongs and error correcting data corresponding to any of the data groups to which the data to be reconstructed belongs, and performs processing of data read/write requests from the host unit; and

wherein the controller is operable in a first mode wherein the processing of reconstructing data has priority over the processing of data read/write requests, and a second mode wherein the processing of data read/write requests has priority over the processing of reconstructing data.

2. A data storage system according to claim 1, wherein the controller determines whether to operate in the first mode or the second mode based on an urgency of data reconstruction.

3. A data storage system according to claim 1, wherein the controller determines whether to operate in the first mode or the second mode in order to complete data reconstruction within a fixed time.

4. A data storage system connectable to a host unit which issues data read/write requests to the data storage system, the data storage system comprising:

a plurality of disc units; and

a controller connected to the disc units;

wherein a fault can occur in any of the disc units;

wherein the disc units store data in a plurality of data groups and error correcting data corresponding to each of the data groups;

wherein the controller performs processing of reconstructing data stored in any of the disc units in which a fault has occurred based on all other data belonging to any of the data groups to which the data to be reconstructed belongs and error correcting data corresponding to any of the data groups to which the data

to be reconstructed belongs, and performs processing of data read/write requests from the host unit;

wherein the controller is operable in a first mode wherein the processing of reconstructing data has priority over the processing of data read/write requests, and a second mode wherein the processing of data read/write requests has priority over the processing of reconstructing data; and

wherein the controller determines whether to operate in the first mode or the second mode in order to complete data reconstruction within a fixed time which is determined before the processing of reconstructing data begins.

5. A data storage system connectable to a host unit which issues data read/write requests to the data storage system, the data storage system comprising:

a plurality of disc units; and

a controller connected to the disc units;

wherein a fault can occur in any of the disc units;

wherein the disc units store data in a plurality of data groups and error correcting data corresponding to each of the data groups;

wherein the controller performs processing of reconstructing data stored in any of the disc units in which a fault has occurred based on all other data

belonging to any of the data groups to which the data to be reconstructed belongs and error correcting data corresponding to any of the data groups to which the data to be reconstructed belongs, and performs processing of data read/write requests from the host unit;

wherein the controller is operable in a first mode wherein the processing of reconstructing data has priority over the processing of data read/write requests, and a second mode wherein the processing of data read/write requests has priority over the processing of reconstructing data; and

wherein the controller determines whether to operate in the first mode or the second mode based on a condition determined before the processing of reconstructing data begins.

6. A data storage system connectable to a host unit which issues data read/write requests to the data storage system, the data storage system comprising:

a plurality of disc units; and

a controller connected to the disc units;

wherein a fault can occur in any of the disc units;

wherein the disc units store data in a plurality of data groups and error correcting data corresponding to each of the data groups;

wherein the controller performs processing of reconstructing data stored in any of the disc units in which a fault has occurred based on all other data belonging to any of the data groups to which the data to be reconstructed belongs and error correcting data corresponding to any of the data groups to which the data to be reconstructed belongs, and performs processing of data read/write requests from the host unit;

wherein the controller is operable in a first mode wherein the processing of reconstructing data has priority over the processing of data read/write requests, and a second mode wherein the processing of data read/write requests has priority over the processing of reconstructing data; and

wherein the controller determines whether to operate in the first mode or the second mode based on a time for reconstructing data which is determined before the processing of reconstructing data begins.

7. A data storage system connectable to a host unit which issues data read/write requests to the data storage system, the data storage system comprising:

a plurality of disc units; and

a controller connected to the disc units;

wherein a fault can occur in any of the disc units;

wherein the disc units store data in a plurality of data groups and error correcting data corresponding to each of the data groups;

wherein the controller performs processing of reconstructing data stored in any of the disc units in which a fault has occurred based on all other data belonging to any of the data groups to which the data to be reconstructed belongs and error correcting data corresponding to any of the data groups to which the data to be reconstructed belongs, and performs processing of data read/write requests from the host unit; and

wherein the controller performs the processing of reconstructing data and the processing of data read/write requests based on a condition determined before the processing of reconstructing data begins.

8. A data storage system according to claim 7, wherein the condition is a time for reconstructing data.

9. A data storage system according to claim 7, wherein the condition determines a priority of the processing of reconstructing data and a priority of the processing of data read/write requests.

10. A data storage system according to claim 9, wherein the condition is a time for reconstructing data.

11. A data storage system connectable to a host unit which issues data read/write requests to the data storage system, the data storage system comprising:

a plurality of disc units; and

a controller connected to the disc units;

wherein a fault can occur in any of the disc units;

wherein the disc units store data in a plurality of data groups and error correcting data corresponding to each of the data groups;

wherein the controller performs processing of reconstructing data stored in any of the disc units in which a fault has occurred based on all other data belonging to any of the data groups to which the data to be reconstructed belongs and error correcting data corresponding to any of the data groups to which the data to be reconstructed belongs, and performs processing of data read/write requests from the host unit; and

wherein the controller determines a priority of the processing of reconstructing data and a priority of the processing of data read/write requests based on a condition determined before the processing of reconstructing data begins.

12. A data storage system according to claim 11, wherein the condition is a time for reconstructing data.

ABSTRACT

A data storage system connectable to a host unit which issues data read/write requests to the data storage system, and which includes a plurality of disc units, and a controller connected to the disc units. A fault can occur in any of the disc units. The disc units store data in a plurality of data groups and error correcting data corresponding to each of the data groups. The controller performs processing of reconstructing data stored in any of the disc units in which a fault has occurred based on all other data belonging to any of the data groups to which the data to be reconstructed belongs and error correcting data corresponding to any of the data groups to which the data to be reconstructed belongs, and performs processing of data read/write requests from the host unit. The controller is operable in a first mode wherein the processing of reconstructing data has priority over the processing of data read/write requests, and a second mode wherein the processing of data read/write requests has priority over the processing of reconstructing data. The controller may determine whether to operate in the first mode or the second mode based on an urgency of data reconstruction, or may determine whether to operate in the first mode or the second mode in order to complete data reconstruction within a fixed time.

FIG. 1

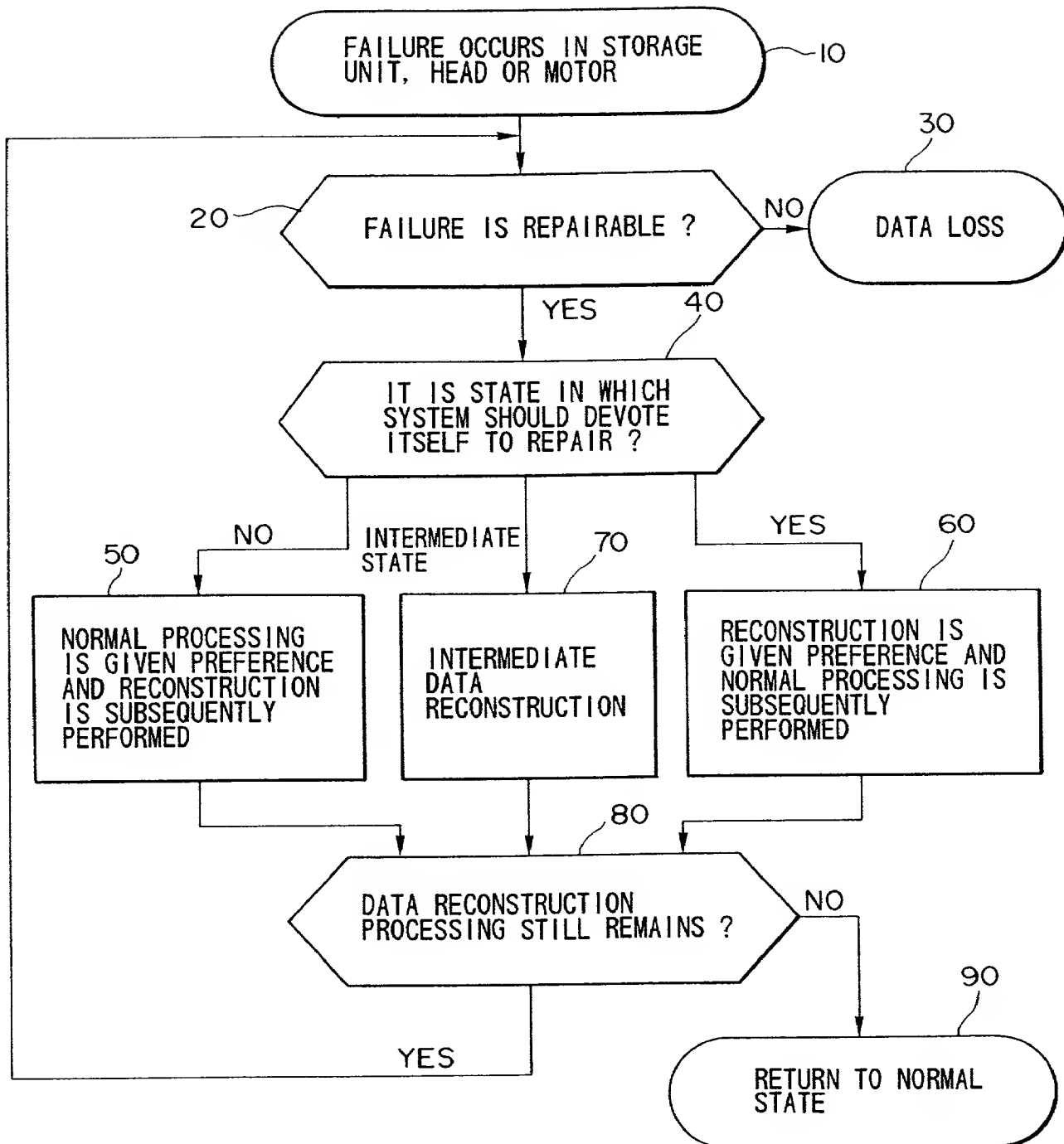


FIG. 2

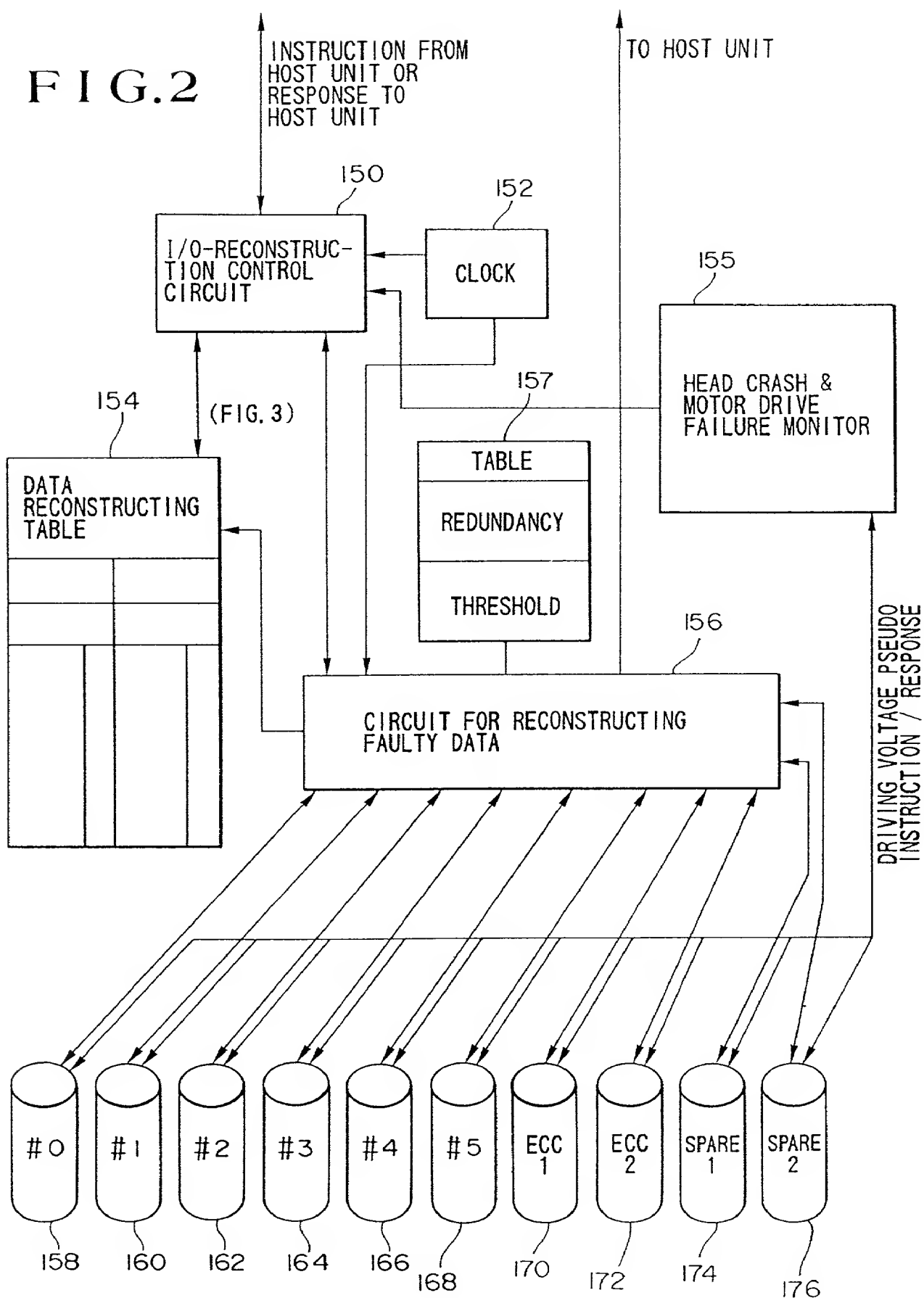


FIG.3

154

DATA RECONSTRUCTING TABLE				
1	SPARE STORAGE UNIT SPARE 1		SPARE STORAGE UNIT SPARE 2	
2	STORAGE UNIT AT FAILURE #2		STORAGE UNIT AT FAILURE #4	
3	POINT OF FAILURE		POINT OF FAILURE	
4	FAILURE SECTOR OR ADDRESS	RECONSTRUC- TION JUDGEMENT FLAG	FAILURE SECTOR OR ADDRESS	5RECONSTRUC- TION JUDGEMENT FLAG
	0000	1	0000	1
	0001	1	0001	1
	0010	1	0010	0
	⋮		⋮	
	FFFF	0	FFFF	0

FIG.4

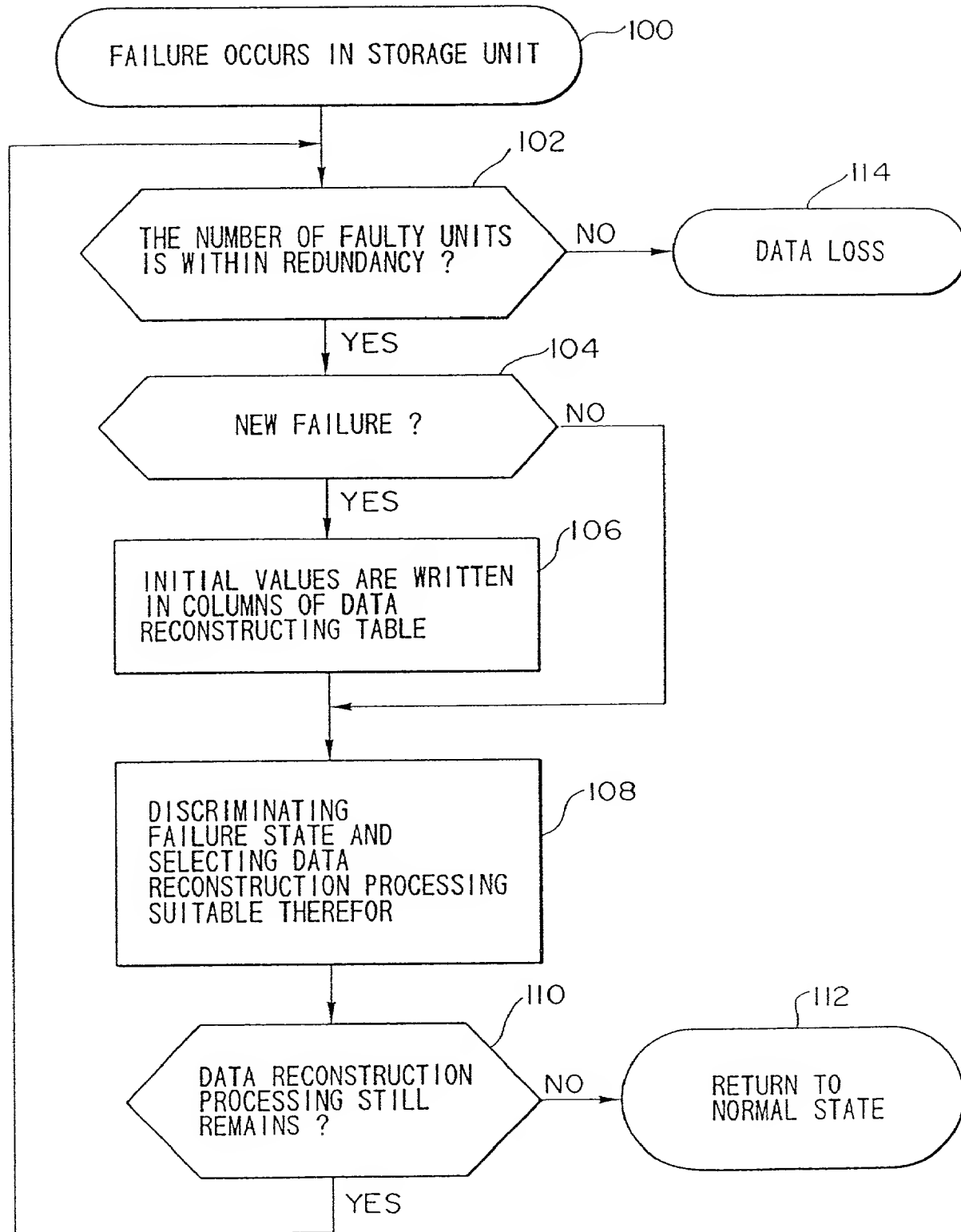


FIG.5

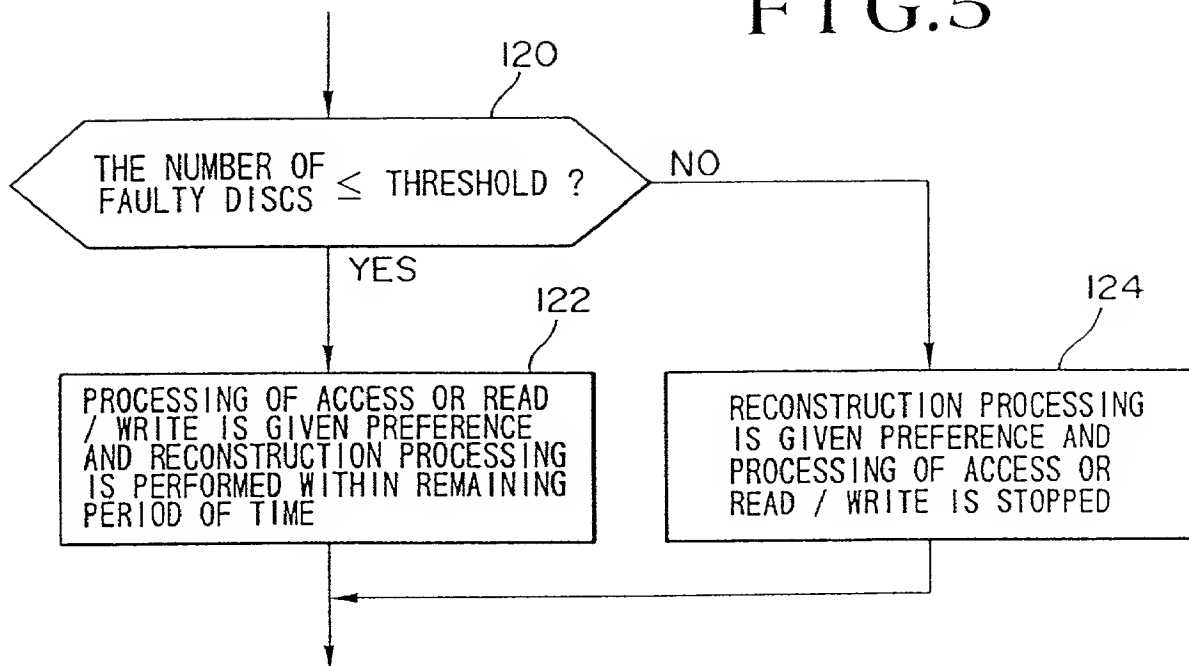


FIG.6

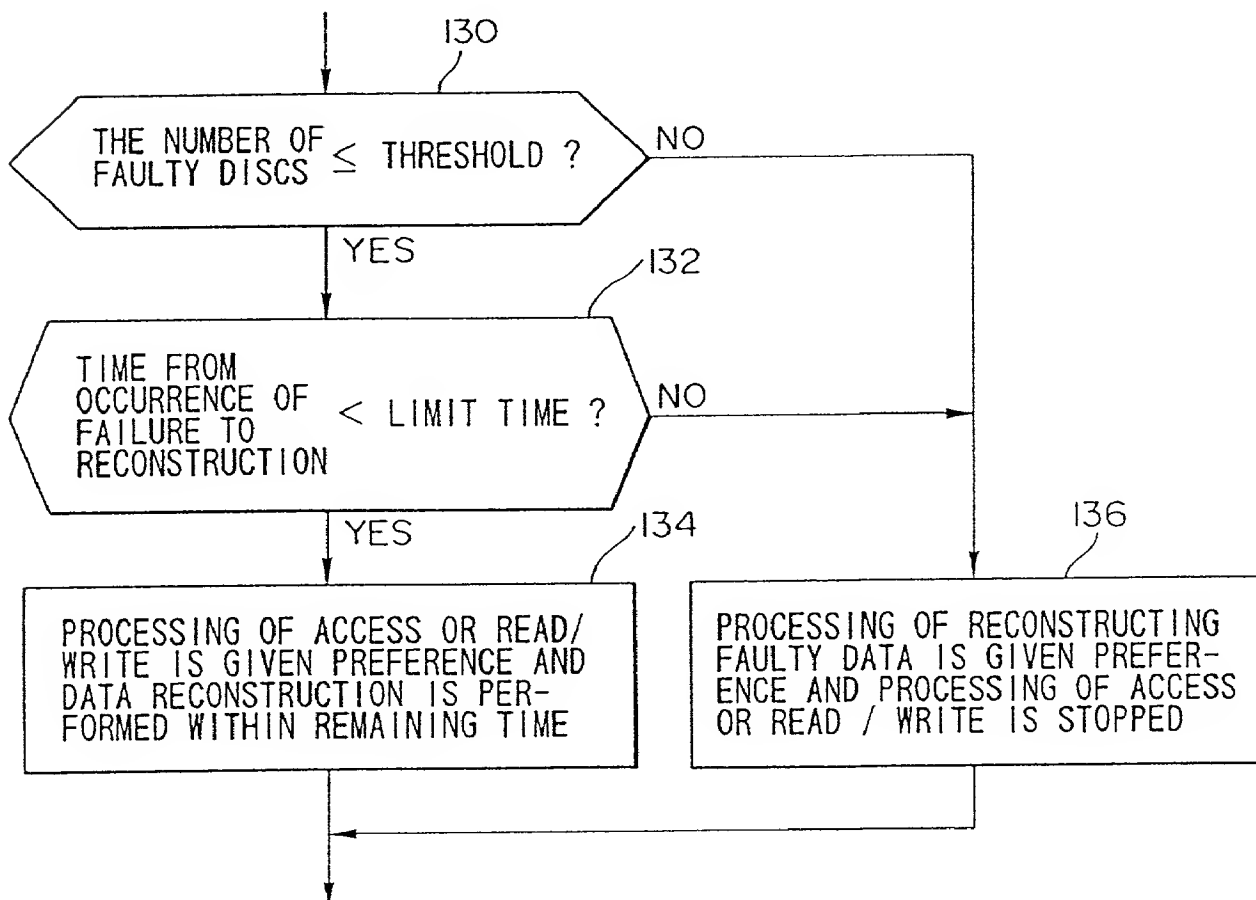
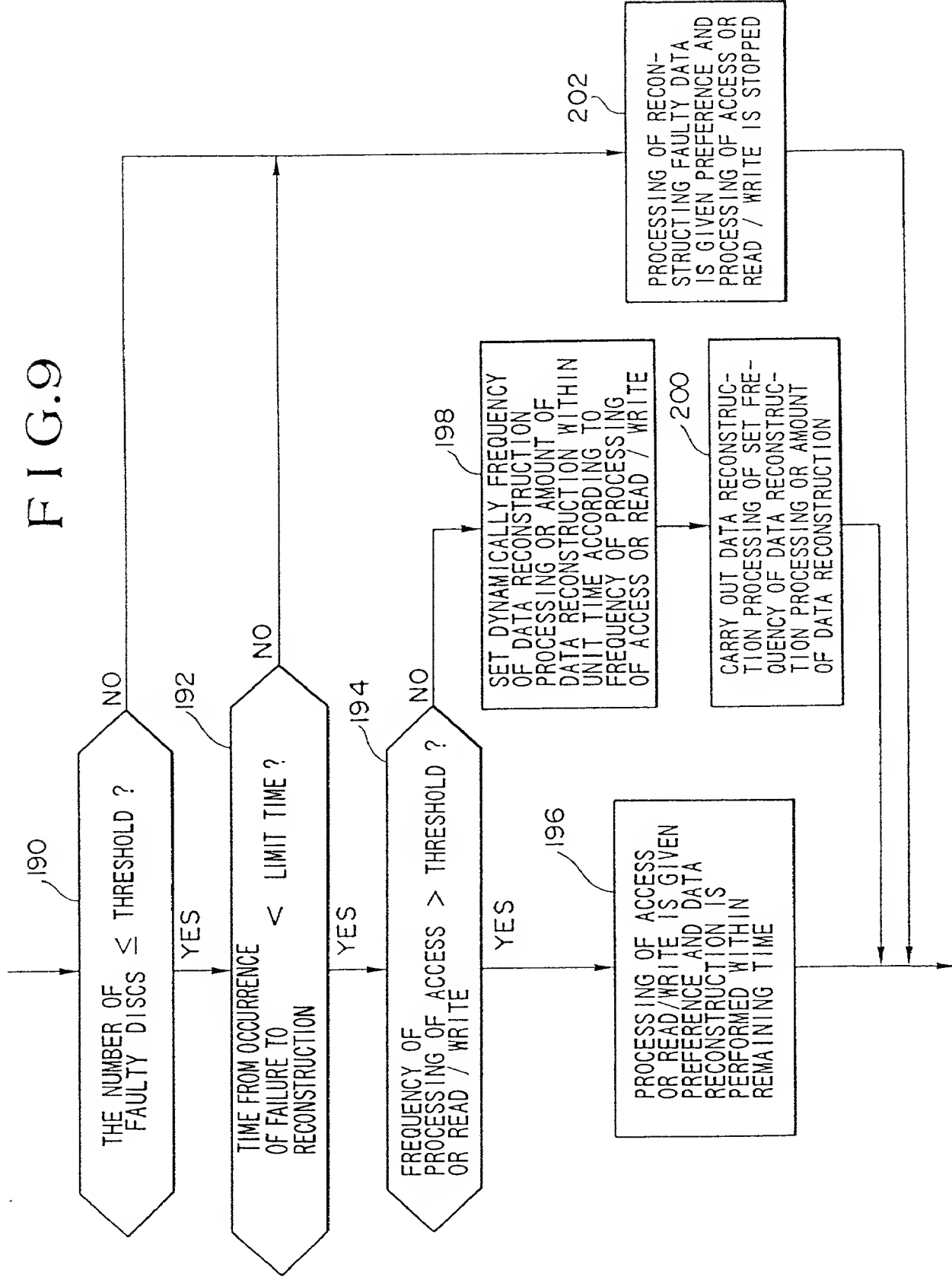


FIG.9



COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

(宣誓書及び委任状)

Copy

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name, I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

"DATA RECONSTRUCTION METHOD AND SYSTEM EMPLOYING THE SAME"

the specification of which: (check one) ☒ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed on _____
as Application Serial No. _____
and was amended on _____
(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended, by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me which is material to patentability in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date earlier than that of the application(s) on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)			Priority Claimed	
<u>03-094728</u> (Number)	<u>Japan</u> (Country)	<u>1 April, 1991</u> (Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, 120 of any United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America that is/are listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in that/those prior application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

_____ (Application Serial No.)	_____ (Filing Date)	_____ (Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)
_____ (Application Serial No.)	_____ (Filing Date)	_____ (Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby appoint as principal attorneys; Donald R. Antonelli, Reg. No. 20,296; David T. Terry, Reg. No. 20,178; Melvin Kraus, Reg. No. 22,466; Stanley A. Wal, Reg. No. 26,432; William I. Solomon, Reg. No. 28,565; Gregory E. Montone, Reg. No. 28,141; Ronald J. Shore, Reg. No. 28,577; Donald E. Stout, Reg. No. 26,422; Alan E. Schiavelli, Reg. No. 32,087 and James N. Dresser, Reg. No. 22,973 to prosecute and transact all business connected with this application and any related United States application and international applications. Please direct all communications to the following address:

Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus
Suite 600
1919 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
Telephone: (202) 828-0300

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

宣誓日

発明者フルネームサイン

氏名タイプ欄

Date March 24, 1992 Inventor Atsushi Tanaka Atsushi TANAKA

Residence Kokubunji-shi, Japan Citizenship Japan

Post Office Address 14-6, Nishikoigakubo-4-chome, Kokubunji-shi, Japan.

Date March 24, 1992 Inventor Yoshihisa Kamo Yoshihisa KAMO

Residence Musashimurayama-shi, Japan Citizenship Japan

Post Office Address 38-22, Shinmei-2-chome, Musashimurayama-shi, Japan.

Date March 24, 1992 Inventor Hitoshi Kakuta Hitoshi KAKUTA

Residence Kokubunji-shi, Japan Citizenship Japan

Post Office Address 1-3, Higashikoigakubo-3-chome, Kokubunji-shi, Japan.

Date _____ Inventor _____

Residence _____ Citizenship _____

Post Office Address _____

Date _____ Inventor _____

Residence _____ Citizenship _____

Post Office Address _____

Date _____ Inventor _____

Residence _____ Citizenship _____

Post Office Address _____

00443-01 (米)